

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 PER-01 SS-15 SP-02 OMB-01
/036 W

-----141004Z 021349 /20

P R 140806Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1425

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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DEPT FOR DASS; POSTS FOR RSOS FROM RSS GARRETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF RSO SANA AND KUWAIT AREAS
OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. BASED ON THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED POLITICAL SITUATION
IN THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUED
TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF SY PROGRAMS IN EXISTENCE AT SANA,
WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT AN RSO POSITION IS STILL WARRANTED FOR
THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. RSO CORRIS HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN THE INITIAL
ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS POSITION WHICH HAS INCLUDED, BUT NOT
LIMITED TO, TRAINING OF LOCAL GUARDS, A PROTECTIVE DETAIL AND
MSGs, AS WELL AS A HOST OF INTERNAL DEFENSE, REACTION PLANS
AND CONTROL PROCEDURES. FOR A POST LIKE SANA, THE SY PROGRAM
IS IMPRESSIVE. HOWEVER, THE RSO REPLACING CORRIS SHOULD
INHERIT A SMOOTH FUNCTIONING ON-GOING PROGRAM THUS
REQUIRING LESS THAN FULL-TIME ATTENTION TO THESE FUNCTIONS.
ACCORDINGLY, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO (1) ASSIGNING
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THE RSO ADDITIONAL DUTIES RELATED TO ADMIN AND SY AT POST,
OR (2) EXPANDING THE AREA OF SY RESPONSIBILITY. FROM AN
SY OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO THE LATTER.

3. THE RSO KUWAIT CURRENTLY COVERS FIVE EMBASSIES AS WELL
AS THE EMBASSY OFFICE IN DUBAI, UAE. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS

HELD WITH THE ADMIN OFFICER, DCM AND THE AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT THEY WOULD PREFER THAT THE RSO DEVOTE AS MUCH TIME TO KUWAIT AS POSSIBLE SINCE ANY ABSENCE OF THE RSO REQUIRES ASSISTANCE FROM AN UNDERSTAFFED ADMINISTRATION SECTION.

4. WHILE POSTS SERVICED BY THE RSO KUWAIT ARE RELATIVELY SMALL, THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY THE RSO IS IN INDIRECT PROPORTION TO THEIR SIZE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN ASSISTING THE ADMIN. SECTIONS IN ROUTINE PSO FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTING NUMEROUS RSO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

5. AIRLINE SERVICE HAS SUBSTANTIALY IMPROVED IN THE GULF STATES DURING THE PAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FAR FROM BEING PERFECT. PRESENTLY THERE ARE DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN MUSCAT, ABU DHABI AND SANA AT LEAST THREE TIMES PER WEEK AS WELL AS DIRECT FLIGHTS LEAVING JIDDA FOR THESE POSTS DAILY. THERE ARE 3-5 SANA/JIDDA FLIGHTS PER DAY.

6. WHILE JIDDA IS MORE IDEALLY LOCATED FOR AIR TRAVEL TO GULF POSTS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE RSO JIDDA SHOULD BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD, PRESENCE OF AMERICANS, THE FUTURE MOVE TO RIYAH, AND THE ON-GOING COVERAGE REQUIRED AT JIDDA AND DHARAN.

7. BASED ON ALL THE ABOVE, AND CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS AT ALL POSTS INVOLVED, WE RECOMMEND THAT RSO SANA ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AMEMBASSY AT MUSCAT AND ABU DHABI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INCLUDE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICE IN DUBAI. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A REASONABLE BALANCE OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL THREE RSOS LOCATED IN THE GULF AREA.

8. IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT THE RSO POSITION IN KUWAIT IS RU-4 AND SANA RU-5. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT JIDDA POSITION SHOULD BE AT THE RU-4 LEVEL. WE BELIEVE WITH THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT, THE RSO POSITION AT KUWAIT, SANA AND JIDDA SHOULD ALL MERIT A CLASSIFICATION AT THE RU-4 LEVEL, TO COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH THE RSO POSITIONS IN DACCA, DAMASCUS, KABUL AND TUNIS, WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED AT THE RU-4 LEVEL.

9. IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE HOPE TO IMPLEMENT SOME SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS FOR CONTROL OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT POSTS IN THE GULF STATES. ADDITIONALLY, THE SY SURVEY FOR MUSCAT IS OVERDUE AND RSO KUWAIT HAS DELAYED SCHEDULING PENDING DECISION ON THIS PROPOSAL. RSO KUWAIT AND SANA ARE FULLY AWARE OF THESE PROPOSALS

AND BOTH RSOS CONCUR.

10. WE URGE EARLY CONSIDERATION AND DECISION ON THIS
PROPOSAL SO THAT PLANNED PROJECTS WILL NOT BENJEOIOHGBIZED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KARACH01190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770086-0966
Format: TEL
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770363/aaaacdph.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b5c7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3120518
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF RSO SANA AND KUWAIT AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b5c7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009